

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Previously Presented) A semi-solid enteral nutrition product for enteral administration directly to a stomach or intestines of a patient from an external container connected to an external portion of a feeding tube provided through a through-hole of a stoma formed through a portion of the abdominal and stomach walls of the patient upon the application of pressure to said external container, said semi-solid enteral nutrition product comprising:

a semi-solid material having a substantially self-supporting consistency that deforms to flow under an externally applied load without liquefying and that is capable of containing a higher concentration of a nutrient component than a liquid, said semi-solid material comprising a liquid nutrient solution and a semi-solidifying agent comprising one of agar and a whole egg that is added to said liquid nutrient solution;

wherein said self-supporting consistency of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product remains substantially unchanged before, during, and after enteral administration of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product into the patient, and said self-supporting consistency of said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is further maintained within the stomach or the intestines of the patient such that said semi-solid enteral nutrition product does not liquefy due to the body temperature of the patient.

2. (Previously Presented) The enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said feeding tube has an internal diameter that is larger than approximately 4 mm.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

providing a holder comprising ~~one of said container and another vessel that is separate from said container~~;

filling said holder with a mixture of said liquid nutrient solution and said semi-solidifying agent in a liquid state thereof; and

performing a heat-treating step to heat-treat said mixture within said holder, together with said holder, when said holder is filled with said mixture;

wherein said heat-treating step comprises cooling said mixture when said semi-solidifying agent is agar; and

wherein said heat-treating step comprises heating said mixture when said semi-solidifying agent is whole egg;

to thereby prepare said semi-solid enteral nutrition product.

4. (Currently Amended) A semi-solid enteral nutrition product administration device comprising:

a holder comprising said container; and

the semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1 provided within said holder;

~~wherein said holder comprises one of said container and another vessel that is separate from said container; and~~

wherein said semi-solid enteral nutrition product is prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

providing said holder;

filling said holder with a liquid mixture of said liquid nutrient solution and said semi-solidifying agent; and

performing a heat-treating step to heat-treat said mixture within said holder, together with said holder;

wherein said heat-treating step comprises cooling said mixture within said holder when said semi-solidifying agent is agar; and

wherein said heat-treating step comprises heating said mixture within said holder when said semi-solidifying agent is whole egg.

5. (Withdrawn) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said semi-solidifying agent comprises agar which is added in amount of 1 gram to 200 ml of a diluting liquid that is first added to said liquid nutrient solution.
6. (Previously Presented) The semi-solid enteral nutrition product according to claim 1, wherein said semi-solidifying agent comprises egg added in an amount of one whole raw egg to 250 ml of said liquid nutrient solution.